3·25 The Collector's Magazine

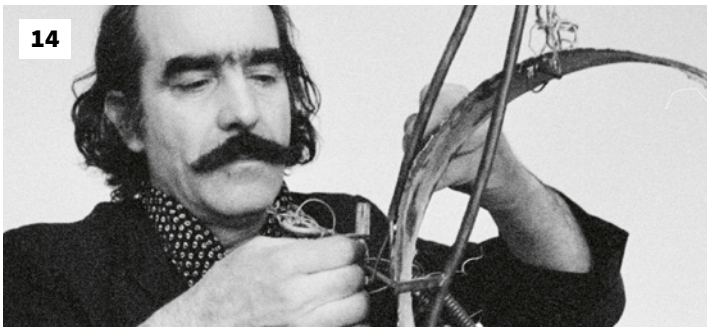
Focus on stamps

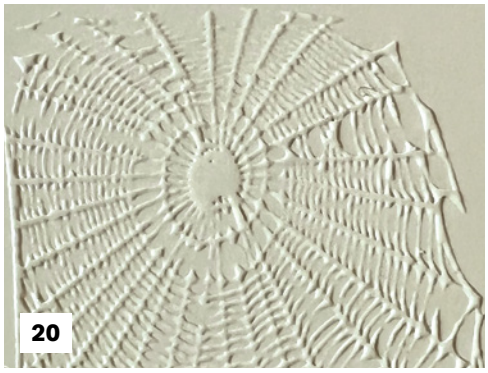
Art in motion!

Toilet Duck – a Swiss invention

Focus

Carrier pigeons – the fastest mail carriers in history





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swisspost.ch/focus-on-stamps-subscription

Photo: Yosia Christen

Moving beauty

Beauty moves us, evoking our emotions, spurring us on and inspiring us to search for it. It can be found in a wide variety of places – including the four Swiss attractions on display in this year's stamp set issue.

But what does beauty actually mean, especially considering it's subjective? It is shaped by cultural and individual factors and can refer to aesthetically appealing things, but also to interpersonal values or positive qualities such as freedom or friendship.

But can something mechanical – such as a machine – be beautiful or even exude a kind of poetry? Perhaps in its rhythmic rattling or monotonous movements, which, as chance would have it, are not always the same? Jean Tinguely, who would have turned 100 this year, captured precisely these thoughts in his work and is considered a trailblazer of kinetic art, which centers around the use of movement. Speaking to us in an interview, the director of the Tinguely Museum explains why these experimental works still inspire us today.

A second artist whose work is featured in this edition of "Focus on stamps" looks for beauty in the hidden corners of our homes – in almost invisible things, such as cobwebs. How would you describe them? Fascinating or bothersome? In her design, Ticino artist Marta Margnetti shares her view of these intricate structures. For her, they are a symbol of biodiversity, a concept that she honours in her artwork. Isn't that beautiful?

Stefan Bühler
Head of Stamps & Philately – Swiss Post

PS: Beauty can be found not just in nature or art, but also in ideals – such as peace, an invaluable asset that is celebrated on two stamps in this issue.

Attractive locations

Impressive mountains, powerful glaciers, historical towns and rugged valleys – the stamp series launched in 2024 is dedicated to Swiss attractions. Once again, the designs will transport you to four national highlights.

A secret Bernese language

The Aare wraps around Bern's old town like an embrace. Directly by the river lies the Matte district, the oldest in the city. While it is now a desirable residential area, it was once home to Bern's poorest community, who developed their own dialect. Several words found their way into Bernese German, including "Gieu" for boy. Residents also invented a secret language, Mattenenglisch, by swapping syllables and vowels. According to the Matteänglisch Club's online interpreter, for example, the High German word for a stamp would transform from "Briefmarke" into "ief'bre-irke'me".

More on this region:
bern.ch

View of a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The heart of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Site is the Aletsch Glacier. In the Aletsch Arena (a skiing and hiking area in Valais that includes the Fiescheralp, Riederalp and Bettmeralp), a range of viewing points enable you to admire the largest glacier in the Alps, which stretches for around 20 kilometres. The viewing platforms are located on the Hohfluh, Moosfluh, Bettmerhorn and Eggishorn. Also famous for their natural, restorative energy, they are easy to reach by mountain railway.

More on this region:
aletscharena.ch

Scan the stamps, take part in the prize draw by 30 September and win great prizes!

Special sheet of 4 stamps

It's not too late

Did you miss last year's Swiss attractions set? No problem! A range of products from the stamp set with the "Geneva", "Landwasser Viaduct", "Rigi" and "Zermatt" designs are still available. Order now at postshop.ch

Set on first-day cover C6

The Alpstein magnet

Directly below the Ebenalp in Appenzell, the Aescher-Wildkirchli mountain inn can be found nestling close to the steep rock face. This is an image that travelled around the world thanks to National Geographic. Affectionately known as the "Alpstein magnet", it is one of the oldest mountain inns in Switzerland. Hermits and herdsmen were welcoming guests here as early as 1800. Another attraction is the nearby Wildkirchli caves, which are famous for their prehistoric finds, proving for the first time that Neanderthals also lived in the Alps.

More on this region:
appenzell.ch

Bear
3 oz – ULTRA HIGH RELIEF PP
Get your strictly limited silver Swiss wildlife medal now.

post.philoro.ch/en/numismatics

A valley with tradition

Valle Verzasca in Ticino offers turquoise water, picturesque villages and impressive stone bridges. And if you explore the region in a bit more depth, you will also experience traditional crafts. Sonogno, the last village in the valley, is home to the wool center (Casa della lana), where women comb, spin and dye sheep's wool so it can be processed. The wool is dyed with natural substances, such as birch leaves for shades of yellow, walnut leaves or shells for brown colours and common madder roots for red hues.

More on this region:
ascona-locarno.com

Postal cards and picture postcards available in the set.

Simply order at postshop.ch

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.00 Bern
★ A603 361 / ⊙ A603 381 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Aescher-Wildkirchli mountain inn
★ A603 362 / ⊙ A603 382 / *CHF 12.00*
1.90 Aletsch Arena
★ A603 363 / ⊙ A603 383 / *CHF 19.00*
2.50 Valle Verzasca
★ A603 364 / ⊙ A603 384 / *CHF 25.00*

Set
★ A603 150 / ⊙ A603 550 / *CHF 6.60*

Set of blocks of four
★ A603 160 / ⊙ A603 560 / *CHF 26.40*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A603 580 / *CHF 7.50*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)
⊙ A603 600 / *CHF 10.20*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A603 630/ *CHF 30.00*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A603 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A603 640 / ⊙ A603 650 / *CHF 7.40*

Postal stationery

Set of 4 postal cards A6, face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
★ A603 841 / ⊙ A603 846 / *CHF 10.60*

Unstamped picture postcard A6

Set of 4 picture postcards A6 at CHF 1.00
★ A603 911 / *CHF 4.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Special sheet

Special sheet of 4 stamps
★ A603 990 / *CHF 6.60*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats
Bern / Aescher-Wildkirchli mountain inn
Stamp: 40×32.5 mm
Sheet: 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps
Aletsch Arena / Valle Verzasca
Stamps: 32.5×40 mm
Sheet: 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps
Special sheet: 100×130 mm

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut

Design Micha Rindisbacher, Lucerne

No busted flush

The Toilet Duck first appeared in 1980. This world-famous household product traces back to a Swiss patent that was originally owned by the Düring family from Dällikon and their company.

The product's founder Walter Düring-Orlob was strongly advised against naming the product "Toilet Duck", but he ignored that advice. "In retrospect, it was a brilliant decision, because a duck for the toilet was a very unusual and eye-catching idea," says Heinz Düring, the inventor's son. Despite the originality of the concept, Walter knew that the product could be copied, so almost all of the budget was spent on patents. The remaining funds were just enough for a TV advertisement. The invention then took on a life of its own: from 1980, it conquered the domestic market and gradually spread around the world.

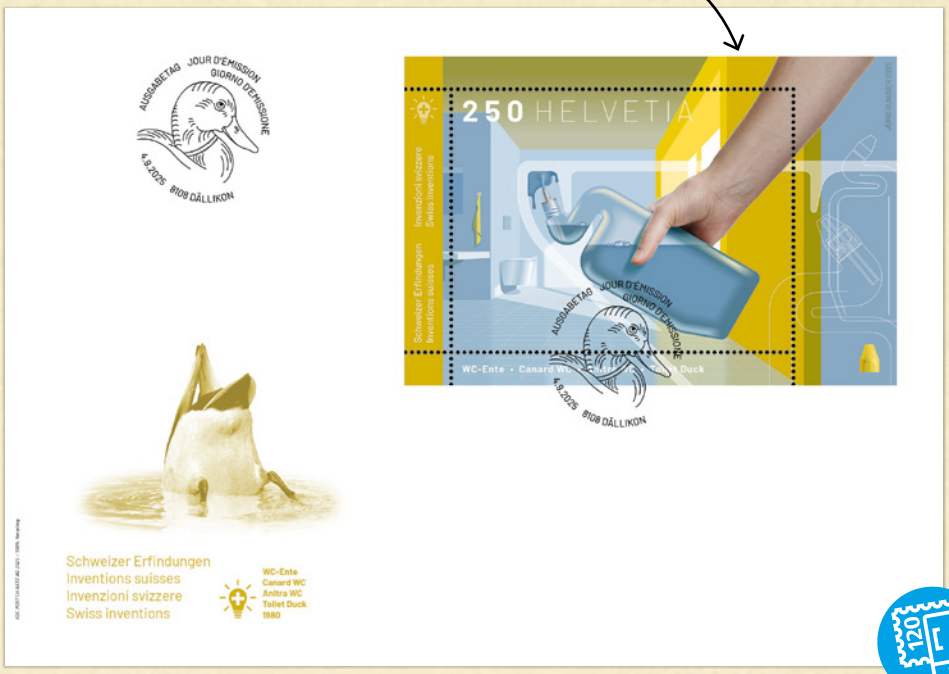
A "durgol" family invention

The foundation for the product was created by the inventor's mother, Maria Düring-Keller. Searching for additional income for her family, she first attempted to produce potato crisps. When she realized that the company Zweifel was already outpacing her efforts, she turned her attention to tackling limescale problems in the home. She experimented with various ingredients in her garage, sometimes calling on the support of a chemist. Once she had perfected her new product's effectiveness and smell, she named it "durgol" – a combination of her last name Düring and the suffix "-ol", which was often used when naming industrial products at that time. The businesswoman then embarked on a sales tour of buildings with large numbers of toilets, such as schools and major companies, presenting the product herself.

The concept was a success, but growth as a one-woman enterprise was limited. In 1964, her son Walter Düring-Orlob joined the newly founded Düring AG, where he continued developing durgol and experimented with plastic bottles, which were completely new at the time. His first attempt was durgol WC. More than 10 years later, he focused his efforts on working out how the cleaning fluid could be squirted directly under the toilet rim. Eventually, he found the winning solution was to give the bottle a curved neck like a duck – and the Toilet Duck was born. The first formula for the descaling fluid was produced by his wife Vera Düring. Working in the company's basement, she developed a product that has a fresh scent, removes heavy limescale and is thick enough to stick to the toilet bowl and remain effective for longer. And this innovation has proved to be anything but a busted flush: today, the household product is still sold around the world under the name of Toilet Duck – translated into each country's national language, of course.

Maria Düring-Keller at the durgol filling machine.

With a fresh citrus-scented coating just like Toilet Duck.



Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6

Scan the stamp
and take a quiz to discover which other fascinating inventions come from Switzerland.

Special folder with miniature sheets of Swiss inventions 2021–2025

"Swiss inventions" special folder

Who invented it? Switzerland is a world leader when it comes to submitting patent applications. To pay tribute to this innovative spirit, Swiss Post has created the "Swiss inventions" stamp series. The special folder combines all five miniature sheets issued as part of the series.

Products

Stamps

Miniature sheet
★ A602 315 / ⊙ A602 815 / *CHF 2.50*

Covers

Miniature sheet on first-day cover E6
⊙ A602 580 / *CHF 3.50*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A602 700 / *CHF 0.90*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A602 701 / *CHF 1.00*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A602 640 / ⊙ A602 650 / *CHF 3.30*

Maximum card A6

Face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
⊙ A602 851 / *CHF 3.50*

Unstamped picture postcard A6

★ A602 911 / *CHF 1.00*

Special product

Special folder with miniature sheets of Swiss inventions 2021–2025
⊙ A602 990 / *CHF 19.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour + rub-off aroma coating; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 73×56 mm
Sheet: 105×70 mm
Miniature sheet with a stamp

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 11¾:11¾

Design Jürg Glauser, Ittigen

Photos: Heinz Düring

Simply order at postshop.ch

Carrier pigeons – the fastest mail carriers in history

Markus Aeschbacher, a passionate carrier pigeon breeder, with one of his carrier pigeons. He still sends letters occasionally as part of school projects.

The dovecote – a home for the feathered mail carriers, who have been delivering messages for thousands of years.

Masters of navigation, who find their way without modern technology.

Before telephones and e-mails, one form of communication had long been in use: the carrier pigeon. These feathered "mail carriers" have flitted through human history for thousands of years – used by pharaohs, crusaders and the Swiss Armed Forces. Nowadays, they are mainly used in sport, and their navigation skills are still a source of fascination for scientists.

Text: Hanno Lietz, René Moor / Blueheart AG
Photos: Paolo Dutto

They fly alone and with pinpoint accuracy – without any apps, GPS or backup, carrier pigeons manage to find their way back home over mountains, valleys and hundreds of kilometres. Once you've seen one in action, you'll never forget it. For some people, the carrier pigeon is a wonder of nature, and for others, it is a loyal sports partner. Researchers, meanwhile, see it as a flying navigation laboratory. The carrier pigeon's abilities are so impressive that even modern technology is learning from it.

From news service to passion

Mail carriers with wings: pigeons served as messengers in Ancient Egypt, and they were also used by the Greeks to deliver the results from the Olympic Games. During the Middle Ages, sultans maintained a sophisticated pigeon post system. As industrialization took off, carrier pigeons became a trusted method of communication – even Paul Julius Reuter used them for his news agency. In Switzerland, the first carrier pigeon association was founded in 1896 to enable military authorities to send information

“Pure fascination”

Three questions for Hugo Bühler, Vice-Chair of the Swiss Pigeon Racing Association.

How do you train a carrier pigeon for races?
Pigeons learn how to return to their homes at a young age, first over short distances and then over ever longer distances. From April, training becomes targeted – initially individually, and later along with other breeders. This allows the pigeons to get used to flying in a flock. The pigeons have to be healthy, and the weather optimum. Every pigeon has to be in top condition – this is checked before every flight.

What do you find most fascinating?
When a pigeon returns with pinpoint accuracy after a long flight – that never stops feeling special. Experience, good breeding and a great deal of passion go into the training. The highlight for many breeders is the National Exhibition, where only particularly successful pigeons are shown and given awards.

How is the sport changing?
The number of breeders is decreasing, but new formats such as one loft races are emerging – this is where young pigeons from different breeders are raised and trained in one loft. One loft racing is not just about competition – it also emphasizes dialogue and friendship.

reliably. In fact, the Swiss Armed Forces still had their own carrier pigeon service as late as 1996.

Masters of navigation

How do pigeons find their way home over hundreds of kilometres? Their navigation system is based on several factors: they use the Earth’s magnetic field and the position of the Sun as compasses, and they store smells from their surroundings as a kind of “scent map”. These skills have impressed researchers, who are drawing inspiration from carrier pigeons for modern navigation systems – for example, when developing autonomous drones. Some studies suggest that carrier pigeons may even be able to navigate via acoustic signals or infrasound – a concept that still offers a great deal of potential for scientists.

Excellence in sport

Today, carrier pigeons are mainly used in sport. When racing, they cover routes of over 1,000 kilometres and reach speeds of up to 100 km/h. There are also active racing pigeon clubs in Switzerland, which support and cultivate this traditional sport. It’s no longer just a question of speed – the sport also brings together generations of breeders and keepers who are passionate about training their birds. The Swiss Pigeon Racing Association has several regional associations throughout the country and organizes competitions and exhibitions on a regular basis. Its members are not only experienced keepers, but also young people who are committed to treating animals with respect and keeping our cultural heritage alive.

Whether it’s history, research or sport, carrier pigeons are fascinating. They offer top-quality delivery services – without any postage fees. And who knows? They may continue shaping the evolution of technology in future.

Miniature sheet **Dove of peace**

Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6

Scan the stamp
to find out more.

A sign of peace

To raise awareness of the importance of peace, an international initiative has created the "Dove of peace" stamp.

Peace is a basic human need: we all want to live in harmony. And yet we are often surrounded by different conflicts – within ourselves, in our communities or globally. To raise awareness of the value of peace and send a message of hope, an international initiative launched the "Dove of peace" stamp project. The centerpiece of the project is an embroidered stamp featuring a dove as a universal symbol of peace and unity.

A shared idea for a better world
Postal administrations from various European countries (including Swiss Post), the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union and Austrian embroidery producer Hämmerle & Vogel are all involved in the project. "Together, we are committed to world peace, which we are supporting through this project and the 'Dove of peace' stamp," the project sponsors announced in a communication. The stamp will be available in the participating countries, always with the same design and the relevant country's text and face value. Like a dove in flight, the project transcends borders and carries a powerful message of love, tolerance and humanity around the world.

A call to action
The stamp is also designed as a call to action: peace begins within ourselves and in our immediate surroundings. It requires daily effort, resilience and a commitment to working towards a harmonious community. Even small actions can make a difference – such as using a stamp that encourages people to join the global peace effort.

Discover the art of embroidery!
Curious about how the stamps were created? Scan the QR code and take a look behind the scenes at how these embroidered stamps are produced.

The following countries, territories and organizations have also issued a “Dove of peace” stamp:

United Nations

Liechtenstein

Faroe Islands

Austria

Cyprus

Åland Islands

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Armenia

Greenland

Luxembourg

“Together, we are committed to world peace, which we are supporting through this project and the ‘Dove of peace’ stamp.”

Source: Project sponsors

Products

Stamps

Miniature sheet
★ A605 315 / ⊙ A605 815 / *CHF 5.80*

Covers

Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6
⊙ A605 580 / *CHF 6.70*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A605 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A605 640 / ⊙ A605 650 / *CHF 6.60*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Print Embroidered on a woven background; Hämmerle & Vogel GmbH & Co KG, Lustenau, Austria

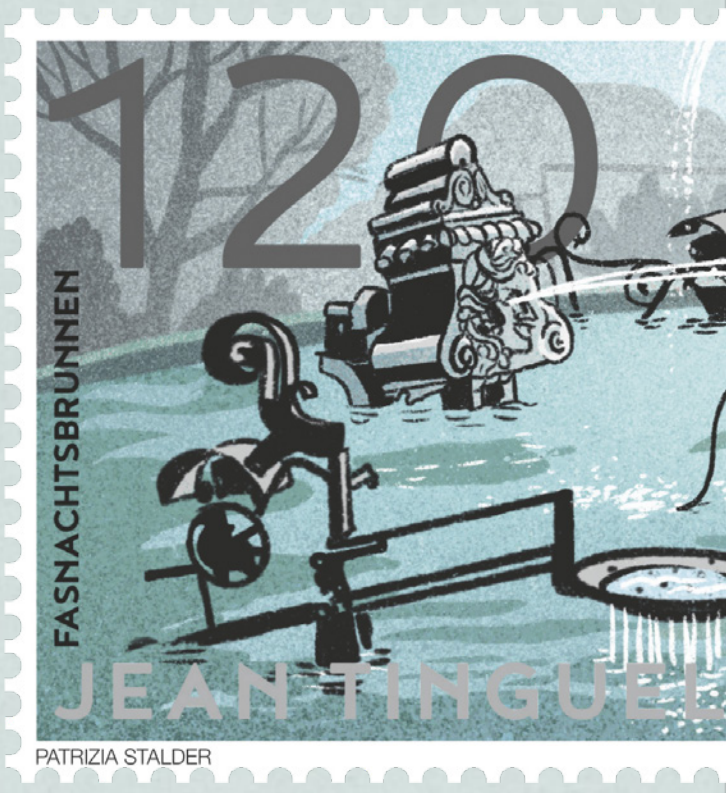
Formats Stamp: 55×43 mm
Miniature sheet: 55×43 mm
Miniature sheet with a stamp

Paper Embroidery

Perforation n/a

Design Iris Hämmerle, Lustenau (AT)

Simply order at postshop.ch



Art in motion

Jean Tinguely (1925–1991) would have celebrated his 100th birthday in 2025. His most significant legacy is still in motion – including the Carnival Fountain in Basel, which is celebrated on this stamp design.

The Carnival Fountain in Basel features ten dancing figures and is typical of Jean Tinguely's creations: his works regularly engage with ideas such as function, movement and the noises made by machines. The world's largest collection of his works is on display in the Tinguely Museum – also in Basel, the city where he grew up. In this interview, the museum's director Roland Wetzel discusses the legacy of this important Swiss artist and why it is still relevant today.

Mr Wetzel, how would you describe Tinguely's personality?

Tinguely was a gifted networker with a large circle of friends. He greatly enjoyed collaborating, experimenting and pushing boundaries when creating art and exhibitions. Thanks to his kinetic works, this brilliant Swiss artist is one of the most important innovators in the post-1950 international art world.

What does kinetic art mean?

Jean Tinguely is considered one of the trailblazers of kinetic art – in other words, art that incorporates movement as one of its central components. He was interested in how machines worked, moved and sounded, as well as their intrinsic poetry. Many of his machine sculptures are powered by a motor and can be activated by visitors at the touch of a button. As such, his works stand in contrast to traditional works of art, which are usually static. Tinguely wanted his machines to encourage people to reflect on industrialization and the role of technology in modern society. What's more, his art is often ironic and humorous, questioning the mechanical perfection of the machines and incorporating chance as part of the artistic process.

What is it like exhibiting motion-based works in a museum?

Our collection comprises around 130 sculptures that can be experienced interactively. Conserving these works is a major challenge, and keeping them mobile is one of the restoration department's key concerns. The complexity of this task is demonstrated by the fact that there is no universal conservation strategy – each work requires careful observation, documentation and individual, long-range planning. To highlight this important role in caring for and preserving Tinguely's work, our conservation department has opened its exhibition studio to the public and is giving visitors an insight into its work.

How has Tinguely influenced Swiss art history?

Tinguely produced a highly creative body of work over four decades and reinvented himself time and again. Using radical and innovative approaches such as the Méta-Matic drawing machine, Tinguely questioned the traditional relationship between artists, the works they create and their viewers. The destruction of his piece Homage to New York, which he staged in the Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden in 1960, also had a major impact. It boosted Tinguely's profile in the United States overnight, giving him a prominent place in art history.

What is the significance of his artistic legacy in today's art world?

I regard Tinguely as one of the most important artists of his time, whose work still influences young artists both locally and internationally. The exceptional quality of his work is reflected in its accessibility to all people. Tinguely's central themes, such as the relationship between humans and machines, temporality, the factor of chance, play, sensuality, consumer criticism, life and death, are still topical and relevant today.

What are your wishes for Tinguely's 100th birthday?

The Tinguely Museum wishes for his work to continue inspiring contemporary artists and enabling people of all ages to access art in a fun way.

Tinguely Museum, Basel / Photo: Nicole Pont

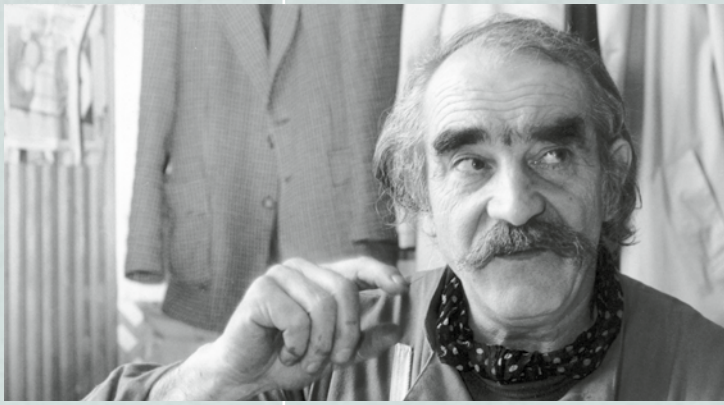
The Carnival Fountain in action

The Carnival Fountain was built between 1975 and 1977. Jean Tinguely designed and created the ten figures, who, like actors or dancers, perform an ever-identical yet ever-new show on a stage.

See the Carnival Fountain in action:

"There is no death! Death exists only for those who cannot accept evolution. Everything changes. Death is the transition from one movement to another." *Jean Tinguely*

Roland Wetzel on Jean Tinguely's Grosse Méta-Maxi-Maxi-Utopia, 1987



Scream Machines – Art Ghost Train

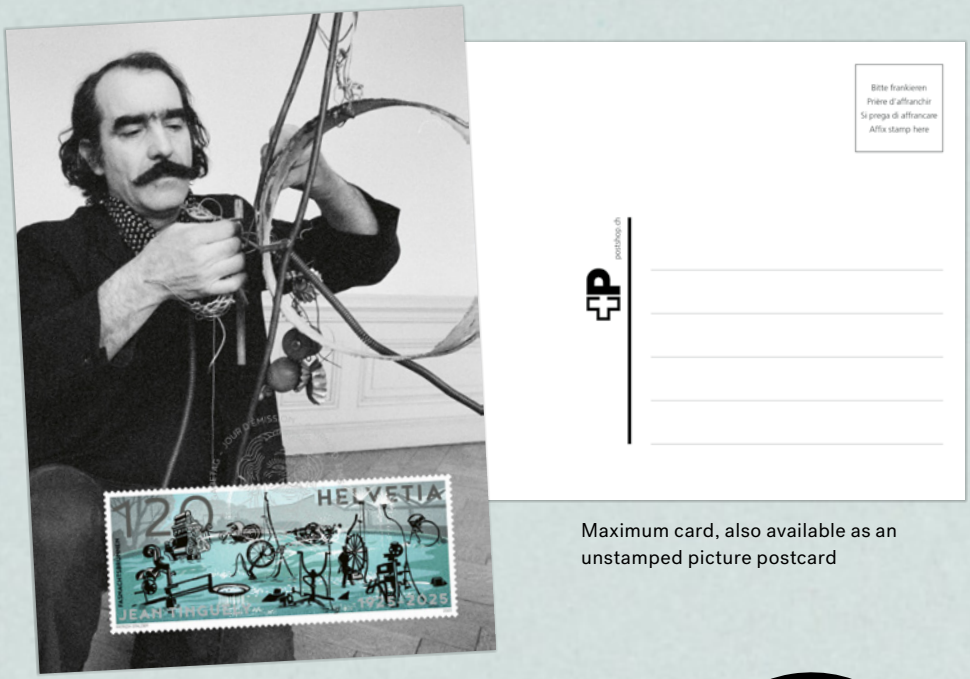
Scream Machines is a large-scale installation designed by British artist Rebecca Moss and Swiss artist Augustin Rebetez. It is based on the structure of a historic ghost train and will take visitors on a ride through an immersive art landscape at the Tinguely Museum from 22 May to 30 August 2025.

Information on the various national and international anniversary events can be found on the digital platform www.tinguely100.com.

Special stamp **100 years Jean Tinguely**

Scan the stamp
to find out more.

Single stamp on first-day cover C6



Maximum card, also available as an unstamped picture postcard

Products

Stamps

Sheet of 8 stamps
★ A606 111 / ⊙ A606 511 / *CHF 9.60*

Single stamp
★ A606 150 / ⊙ A606 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A606 160 / ⊙ A606 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A606 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover E6
⊙ A606 630 / *CHF 5.80*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A606 700 / *CHF 0.90*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A606 701 / *CHF 1.00*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A606 640 / ⊙ A606 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Maximum card A6

Face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
⊙ A606 851 / *CHF 2.20*

Unstamped picture postcard A6

★ A606 911 / *CHF 1.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour +
hot foil stamping;
Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 80×33 mm
Sheet: 188×160 mm
4 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener,
matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13¾:13¼

Design Patrizia Stalder, Basel

Exclusively for you!

Tinguely Museum voucher

This voucher entitles one adult to admission to the Tinguely Museum in Basel at the discounted price of CHF 12 instead of CHF 18. Please present the voucher at the museum ticket office (either cut out or in the booklet). The Tinguely Museum looks forward to welcoming you!

Please note: this voucher cannot be redeemed online or in combination with other reduced admission prices. Valid until: 31 December 2025

Simply order at postshop.ch

100 artists from the Swiss Post collection

Die Welt entdecken
(Teller mit Eigelb, zu Hause), 2002
(Tapete und Matratze), 2002
(Staubiges Fenster), 2003
(Kaffeeschale und Hände), 2003

Now available as a book!

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Restored

“Basler Dybli” letter box returns

Swiss Post has taken on the task of saving a historic letter box in Basel. One of the six “Basler Dybli” letter boxes, designed by architect Melchior Berri in 1843 and 1844, was partially destroyed by unknown vandals in 2024. These magnificent letter boxes have a different shape and colour from the usual yellow letter boxes and are an integral part of the Basel cityscape.
To restore the damaged letter box, Swiss Post has carried out extensive investigations and partnered with Kunstbetrieb AG Münchenstein. The plan is to install the restored letter box at its original location in the St. Alban suburb this summer, returning a piece of the city’s history to the people of Basel.
And a fun fact: Melchior Berri also designed the famous “Basler Dybli” stamp, the first multicoloured stamp in the world.

More information in the media blog:

Philately universe

Unusual stamps from around the world

The baguette – a symbol of French culture

In November 2022, the artisanal know-how and culture of baguette bread were added to UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in France. To pay tribute to the baguette and the craft of baking, France’s La Poste issued a stamp dedicated to this iconic bread last year. The stamp was created and designed by French illustrator Stéphane Humbert-Basset.

Readers’ letters

A reader has sent us a letter about the Globine competition: “Thank you for the Globine book. My goddaughter Yalina was thrilled with it and devoured it right away. Thank you very much.”

Alexandra Bandi, Attiswil

Focus on stamps editorial team: Dear Ms Bandi, thank you for your lovely message and the adorable children’s drawing. We are delighted to hear that your goddaughter Yalina enjoyed the Globine book so much and that she read it so quickly. We hope Yalina continues to enjoy reading and learning.

Images: La Poste, Postcrossing

From the classroom

Teaching French in a different way

The pupils in Ms Zgraggen's Year 1/2 class at the École Champ-Joly in Plan-les-Ouates sent and received letters during their French lessons. They looked at stamps, searched for monuments or cultural and historical sites in Geneva together and created matching stamp designs.

We're always delighted to receive creative letters like these. The stamps featuring the Jet d'Eau, the Musée d'art et d'histoire and the Cathédrale Saint-Pierre turned out very well.

Postcrossing

A journey around the world

Postcrossing is about more than just sending and receiving beautifully franked postcards. It is a platform that combines friendship, love, respect, culture, time and care for another person on this planet. The Postcrossing project enables people around the world to exchange postcards, regardless of country, age, gender, race or ideology.

Tribute

To mark the 20th anniversary of Postcrossing, the Belgian postal service (bpost) is launching five new stamps this summer. They are are available on a special sheet and show the different steps in a postcard's journey, from being written to arriving in its recipient's hands somewhere in the world.

More information:
postcrossing.com

Dialogue

Readers' letters

Share your philatelic discoveries with us, or simply tell us about your reactions as you read the magazine.

stamps@swisspost.ch

Post CH Network Ltd
Swiss Post Contact Center
Stamps & Philately
Wankdorfallee 4
3030 Bern

We want to hear your views!

Which themes or designs would you like to see on future stamps?

Let us know in our online survey. Thank you.

feedback.post.ch/lupe

Scan the stamp
to find out more about the stamp and Swiss Post's commitment to art.

This art edition by Marta Margnetti, created in conjunction with her special stamp «Le invisibili» on Swiss Post's commitment to art, explores the cobweb as a domestic, untameable, subversive and fragile motif. The image, which combines webs, lace and plant shapes, is a dry print on linen paper produced by the artisanal paper mill Lafranca in the Maggia Valley with technical support from Complice Press Lugano.

Don't miss out: limited issue of 100 items

Hidden diversity

In her stamp design "Le invisibili", Marta Margnetti gives invisible things a presence. The cobweb takes center stage, symbolizing the connections between people, their domestic space and the environment.

Cobwebs: they hang in dark corners of the house and hide in basements or garages, where they stay until the next spring clean. Some people prefer to deal with them more quickly, however, to avoid the delicate strands getting stuck to their hair or skin as they pass by and giving other people a fright. A quick sweep, and problem solved. This common reaction to cobwebs inspired artist Marta Margnetti to use the image on her stamp design: "In my work, I often draw attention to items that are considered waste within domestic spaces. By doing so, I'm trying to give them back their value. For me, cobwebs symbolize the connection between people and non-people and our shared habitat. They encourage us to reflect on our co-existence."

A tangible encounter

But how can you forge a connection with something that is often hidden – in other words, almost invisible? Margnetti's answer was to use the technique of embossing when creating her design: "This makes the delicate texture of the web tangible. I believe it is essential to create work that enable viewers to encounter the art up close." The use of paper made from recycled fibres adds a dimension of ecological sustainability to the design: "The stamp symbolizes the fragile web that connects all living things on Earth and highlights the fascinating biodiversity with which we are in a delicate balance."

Marta Margnetti completed a Bachelor's degree at the Haute école d'art et de design (HEAD) in Geneva in 2012 and a Master's degree at the Bern University of the Arts (HKB) in 2016. The 36-year-old Ticino artist creates pieces that range from sculptures, printing technology, installations and drawings to video and sound work. She often addresses aspects of home life – largely because she has moved numerous times herself.

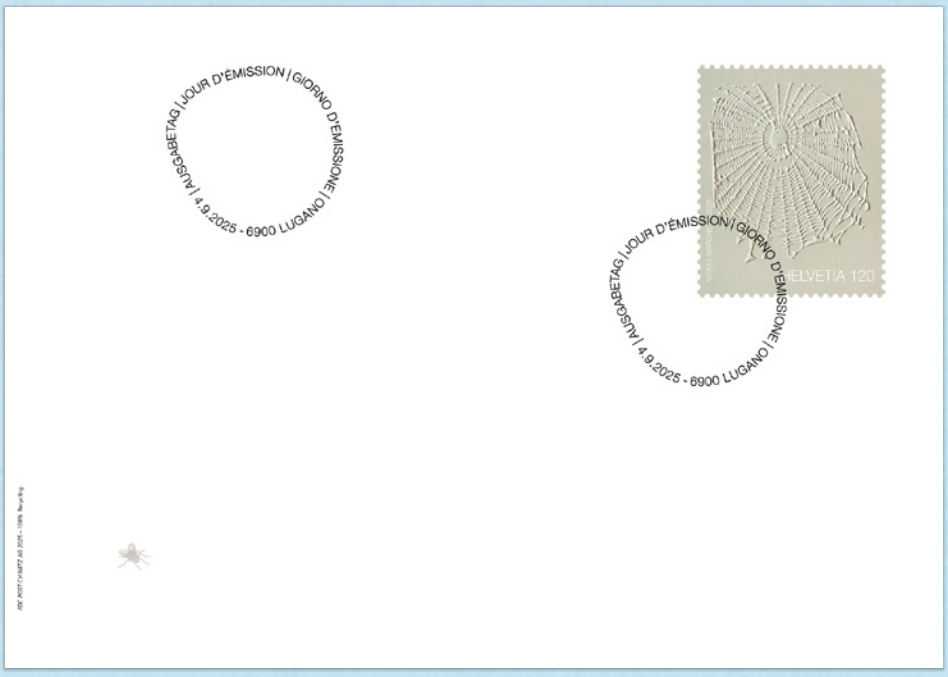
Swiss Post's commitment to art

The "Le invisibili" stamp was created as part of a competition organized by the Art Department and aligns with the ethos of Swiss Post's commitment to art: "Marta Margnetti's artistic work focuses strongly on the topic of home life. She not only connects spatial structures, but also knows how to evoke a reflection on the essence of modern life. Her works will certainly be an exciting record of our times that questions the current challenges of our home environments in an inspiring, artistic way," explains Diana Pavlicek, Head of the Art Department at Swiss Post.
The aim of the commitment to art is to communicate issues that are equally important to Swiss society and Swiss Post. These include topics such as diversity, social justice, concern for natural resources, sustainability, climate and engagement with our history. In this way, Swiss Post is not only honouring art in isolation, but also seeing it as an opportunity to represent and better understand current events and challenges in a variety of ways.

Diana Pavlicek is Head of the Art Department at Swiss Post

100 artists in one book

The art book was published in 2024 to mark the 100th anniversary of Swiss Post's commitment and features 100 artists to symbolize this rich tradition. Special emphasis is placed on ten talented people under the age of 40, who give insights into their lives and work in short handwritten interviews. The book, titled "Unser Engagement für die Kunst: An insight nella collezione d'arte de la Poste Suisse", is available at postshop.ch.


AUSGABETAG | JOUR D'ÉMISSION | GIORNO D'EMISSIONE | 4.9.2025 - 6900 LUGANO
HELVETIA 120
AUSGABETAG | JOUR D'ÉMISSION | GIORNO D'EMISSIONE | 4.9.2025 - 6900 LUGANO

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Products

Stamps

Sheetlet of 8 stamps
★ A604 311 / ⊙ A604 351 / *CHF 9.60*

Single stamp
★ A604 150 / ⊙ A604 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A604 160 / ⊙ A604 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A604 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A604 630 / *CHF 5.70*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
⊙ A604 590 / *10.80*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A604 700 / *CHF 0.90*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A604 701 / *CHF 1.20*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A604 640 / ⊙ A604 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Art edition

20×30 cm, unframed
★ A604 900 / *CHF 200.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 28.8.2025 to 30.9.2026 or while stocks last
Branches: from 4.9.2025 to 30.9.2026 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Printing Offset, 1-colour, 1-stage embossing; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 32.5×40 mm
Sheet: 192×115 mm
2 rows of 4 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, 100% recycling, matt gummed, 98gm²

Perforation 13½:13¼

Design Marta Margnetti, Lugano

Simply order at postshop.ch

Photos: Simon Habegger, Lara Kroha, Scheidegger & Spiess

Scan the stamp
to find out more.

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

The commemorative stamp shows a group photo of the conference participants. The meeting was initiated by Foreign Ministers Gustav Stresemann (Germany) and Aristide Briand (France), who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926.

When Europe made a pact

100 years ago, Europe's major powers met to draw up the Locarno Pact. In this anniversary year, we are celebrating the symbolism of peaceful politics.

Delegates from Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Poland and the former Czechoslovakia convened in Locarno in October 1925 to negotiate on European security issues. The result of the 12-day conference was the Locarno Pact, a series of treaties that were later signed in London. The agreements included a guarantee that Germany, France and Belgium would not use force to change the national borders set out in the Treaty of Versailles. Great Britain and Italy, meanwhile, pledged to provide military support if this agreement was violated. In addition, Germany was accepted into the League of Nations, officially joining in 1926. Now, in the anniversary year, Locarno's Mayor Nicola Pini has emphasized the significance of those negotiations: "The Locarno Pact was a historic moment of fundamental importance for our city and the whole of Europe. It is a symbol of cooperation and international diplomacy."

Events in the anniversary year

In addition to an official day of commemoration, the programme includes exhibitions, concerts and theatre performances.

More information:
www.locarnocittadellapace.ch
(website in Italian)

Products

Stamps

Sheet of 20 stamps
★ A618 111 / ⊙ A618 511 / *CHF 24.00*

Single stamp
★ A618 150 / ⊙ A618 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A618 160 / ⊙ A618 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A618 580 / *CHF 2.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A618 630 / *CHF 5.70*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A618 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A618 640 / ⊙ A618 650 / *CHF 2.00*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 28.8.2025
to 30.9.2026 or while stocks last
Branches: from 4.9.2025
to 30.9.2026 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 4.9.2025

Printing Offset, 4-colour;
Cartor Security Printers,
Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheet: 194×140 mm
4 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener,
matt gummed, 110 gm2

Perforation 13¼:13½

Design Vito Noto, Cadro Lugano

Simply order at postshop.ch

New greeting cards

A world full of emotions

There are moments in life that call for a letter. A greeting card to mark a special event is sure to evoke emotions, conveying thoughts and moods, sparking joy and forging bonds.

Order now at postshop.ch

Some of the stamps issued in 2024 proved extremely popular. For this reason, we have expanded the range with four matching greeting cards:

"Get well soon" greeting card
This card creates a sense of connection. It is the perfect way to wish someone good health and well-being.

"Thanks" greeting card
This can be used to express gratitude – for example, as thanks for a gift or an appreciation of support at a difficult time.

"Congratulations" greeting card
This card will deliver unexpected joy and good wishes, especially on birthdays and anniversaries. It is the perfect way to say congratulations for a special occasion, such as a wedding, a birthday or a baby's birth.

"Ephemerality" greeting card
A greeting card can also provide comfort and express sympathy for someone in mourning. This card is ideal for offering condolences or support.

The greeting cards in A6 format are each affixed with a stamp, cancelled and are delivered with a C6 cover.

Greeting cards A6

Get well soon
⊙ A617 954 / *CHF 7.90*

Thank you
⊙ A617 952 / *CHF 7.90*

Congratulations
⊙ A617 951 / *CHF 7.90*

Ephemerality
⊙ A617 953 / *CHF 7.90*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Focus on stamps now also available as a podcast

A new listening experience for stamp enthusiasts

The collector's magazine "Focus on stamps" is now also available to listen to. Selected articles from each issue are prepared as an audio file and can be listened to conveniently at home or on the go.

Four times a year, "Focus on stamps" reports on the origins and background stories of the various new stamps. Each issue is packed with interesting stories about these fascinating gems.

The new podcast format offers "Focus on stamps" readers an innovative way to discover the intriguing world of stamps. Whether you're on the go, exercising or at home – the carefully crafted content is now available anytime and anywhere.

Rediscover "Focus on stamps"!

Visit **swisspost.ch/focus-on-stamps-podcast** and rediscover "Focus on stamps" – now also available to listen to!

Swiss Crypto Stamp 5.0 donation handover

A fantastic success for young winter sports stars!

Last season was particularly successful for our Swiss winter sports stars. They made us proud with their numerous victories and medals and showed that Swiss winter sports can compete at the highest level. Legendary athletes such as Marco Odermatt and Lara Gut-Behrami, who also appear on the Swiss Crypto Stamp 5.0, performed outstandingly well this season, making Swiss snowsports history.

The auction of the Unique Edition of the Swiss Crypto Stamp 5.0 as part of #RicardoForGood was also a huge success! Thanks to the generous bids, 219,708 francs were raised to promote up-and-coming Swiss winter sports athletes – ensuring the next generation can enjoy the same success.

If you didn't manage to get hold of a Unique Edition copy, we have some good news for you: the Silver, Bronze and Basic Editions of the Swiss Crypto Stamp 5.0 are still available. You can find all our products at postshop.ch.

Photo: Remo Stettler

The cheque was presented to Swiss-Ski outside the Swiss Post headquarters in Wankdorf on 22 April 2025 (from left to right: Stefan Bühler, Head of Stamps & Philately at Swiss Post; Diego Züger, Commercial CEO of Swiss-Ski; Thomas Baur, Deputy CEO of Swiss Post and Head of PostalNetwork; Matthias Rietschin, Head of Partnership & Sponsoring at Swiss-Ski).

Don't want to miss any news about the Swiss Crypto Stamp?
Then visit swisspost.ch/crypto-stamp and register for the crypto stamp newsletter.

Congratulations

Well done to Mia Gujer and Svenja Kolly

Last year, Swiss Post celebrated its anniversary, and to mark this special occasion, the "175 years Swiss Post" special stamps were issued. They were designed by two students studying for the Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts: Svenja Kolly and Mia Gujer.

The two designers submitted their stamps to the annual European Design Awards and won silver. The competition is open to designers from all over Europe, and the award ceremony was held in Ljubljana on 7 July 2025.

Swiss Post is delighted with this award, sends its warmest congratulations to the two designers and wishes them many more creative and exciting projects in the future.

Mia Gujer (left) and Svenja Kolly present the "175 years Swiss Post" special stamps they designed.

PS: The sales deadline for the "175 years Swiss Post" anniversary stamps has been extended. You can find the special stamps at postshop.ch while stocks last.

Photo: Lucerne School of Design, Film and Art

Issuing programme

Anticipation is the greatest feeling

Issue date: 6 November 2025
Featured in: Focus on stamps 4/2025

6.60	**Christmas**
1.00	Christmas lights
1.20	Christmas tree
1.90	Fireworks
2.50	Lantern
4.80	**Seasons**
1.20	Spring
1.20	Summer
1.20	Autumn
1.20	Winter
1.20+0.60	**Stamp Day 2025 Döttingen**
2.50	**Upcycling – From Swiss Post clothing to stamps**
3.30	**Pro Juventute – Supporting one another**
1.00+0.50	Linus
1.20+0.60	Emma

Subject to change.
As at: July 2025

Cancellation Service

Date of issue, special cancellation and last-day cancellation

Please note the deadlines for the submission of cancellation orders. As a rule, this is a period of one month from the date of issue of the stamp for first-day cancellation and one month from the date of the occasion for special cancellation. The same applies to the submission of last-day documents.

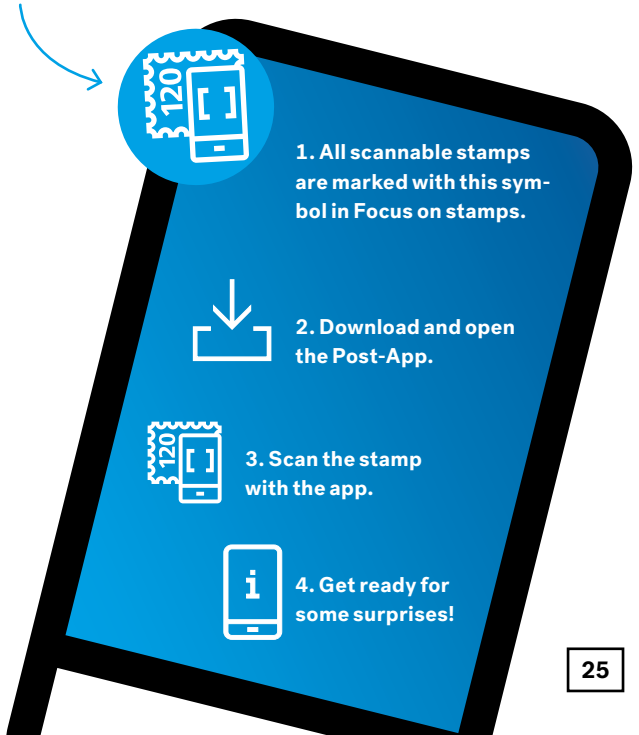
The closing date in each case will be announced in PhilaNews at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

Timely submission on your part helps us to ensure that cancellation orders are processed within this period. Cancellations are longer available after the deadline.

Photo: iStock

The (digital) world of stamps

A world of discovery


120
1. All scannable stamps are marked with this symbol in Focus on stamps.
2. Download and open the Post-App.
120
3. Scan the stamp with the app.
4. Get ready for some surprises!

Event calendar

See you soon?

4 September

Issue date 3/2025

25 September

Publication date of Focus on stamps 4/2025

23 to 25 October

International Stamp Fair in Ulm, DE
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

6 November

Issue date 4/2025

6 to 8 November

78th Salon philatélique d'Automne in Paris, FR
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

20 to 22 November

Veronafil in Verona, IT
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

27 to 29 November

Stamp Day 2025 in Döttingen, CH
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

5 to 6 December

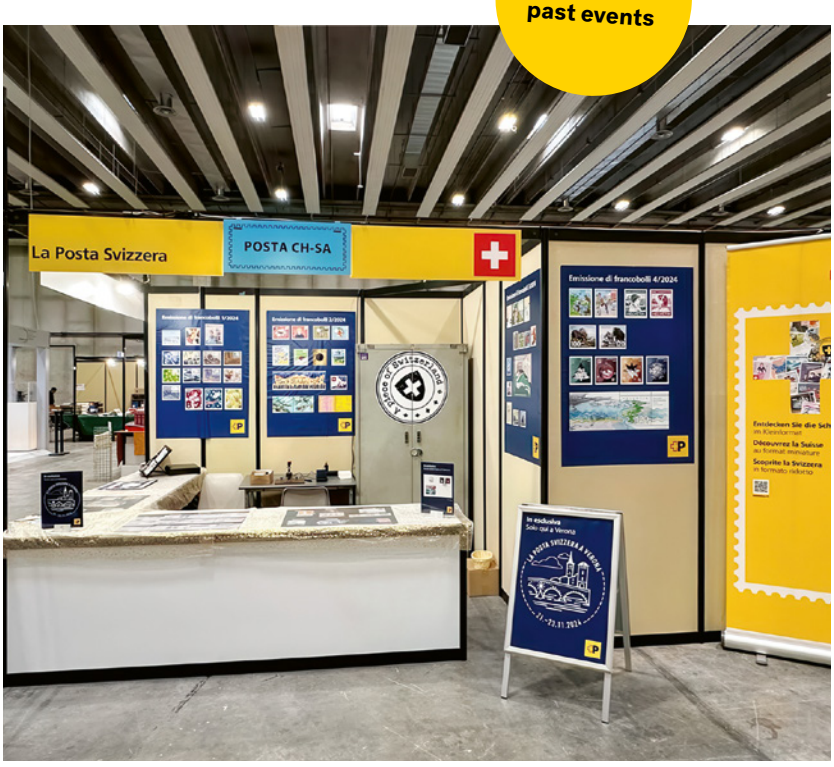
Christmas branch in Bern-Bethlehem, CH
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

Globine Event in Basel, 2024

Photos from past events

Paris 2024



Verona 2024

Colourful stamps

Everything your heart desires

2024 year set

2024 year set with
first-day covers (FDC)

2024 year book

Stamp catalogue
Zumstein

Swiss
stamp catalogue

Products

Issue set with single stamps 3/2025
The single stamps and sets in the 3/2025 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.
★ A607 150 / ⊙ A607 550 / *CHF 18.30*

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 3/2025
The first-day covers with single stamps and sets in the 3/2025 issue are combined in one free cover.
⊙ A607 580 / *CHF 24.00*

2024 year book
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents all Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2024, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (de/fr/it/en).
★ A555 830 / ⊙ A555 831 / *CHF 94.00*

2024 year set
All Swiss stamps for 2024, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve.

★ A556 320 / ⊙ A556 820 / *CHF 80.00*

2024 year set with first-day covers (FDC)
All first-day covers in 2024 – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the relevant first-day cancellations.

⊙ A556 530 / *CHF 105.30*

Zumstein stamp catalogue Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
2026, German/French
★ A608 725 / *CHF 35.00*

Swiss stamp catalogue Switzerland
2026, German/French
★ A608 787 / *CHF 29.00*
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

You can find all
our products at
postshop.ch

Wandern

Abwechslungsreiche Ideen für Familien

Hauptpartnerin der

Schweizer Wanderwege